Water Quality Report – 2009

What is the source of my drinking water? Our water is pumped as ground water from three wells. One is located on Route 140 adjacent to the Alton Central Fire Station. Another well is located off Route 11 in Alton Bay behind the Levy Park and the third well is at Jones Field.

How can I get involved? For further information, contact Richard Quindley, Superintendent, at (603) 875-4200, or write Richard Quindley c/o Alton Water Works, PO Box 803, Alton, NH, 03809. The Alton Water Works Board of Commissioners holds meetings open to the public at 9:30 A.M. on the forth Wednesday of every month at the office, which is located at 67 Frank C. Gilman Highway, Rt. 140, next to the Alton Central Fire Station. Mailing address: PO Box 803, Alton, NH, 03809.

Why are contaminants in my water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the US Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Violations: NONE

Other information: The Alton Water Works was purchased by the town in 1921 for the sum of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars ($17,500.00). At the time water was being pumped from Lake Winnipesaukee. The first well was installed in 1938 on Route 140 next to the Central Fire Station. At that time the reservoir on Route 28 was built. The second well behind Levey Park was installed in 1968. The #1 well pumps water at a rate of 160 gallons per minute. The #2 well pumps at a rate of 300 gallons per minute. In April of 2004 the new well at Jones Field was put on line. This well can produce up to 500 gallons per minute. A lot of the original piping has been replaced but some is still in use in the Alton Bay area. The Water Works also supplys water to, and maintains, 63 fire hydrants. MTBE: In 2008, 3 wells were tested for MTBE. The results showed that no levels were detected. Presently our water is being treated with sodium hydroxide which raises the P.H. This is done to reduce the amount of lead and copper that leaches from plumbing pipes and fixtures. We also add chlorine to insure that there are no bacteria.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ trans-plants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. They are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

TT: Treatment Technique, or a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants (for water systems that use chlorine).
MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants (for water systems that use chlorine).

Abbreviations:
ppm: parts per million **ppb**: parts per billion **ppt**: parts per trillion **ppq**: parts per quadrillion **pCi/L**: pico curies per liter
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidy Unit
NA – Not applicable **nd**: not detectable at testing limits **AL**: Action Level **TT**: Treatment Technique

Sample Dates: The results for detected contaminants listed below are from the most recent monitoring done in compliance with regulations ending with the year 2008. Results prior to 2008 will include the date the sample was taken. The State of New Hampshire allows water systems to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Thus some of the data present, though representative, may be more than one year old.

DETECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Contaminant (Units)	Level Detected	MCL	MCLG	Violation YES/NO	Likely Source of Contamination	Health Effects of Contaminant
Radioactive Contaminant Radon (pCi/L)	1800	None	0	NO	Erosion of natural deposits	Presently the US Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing the setting of a standard for radon in drinking water. See radon note above on page one of this report

Description of Drinking Water Contaminants:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

Radon: Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. It is a known human carcinogen. Breathing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. Presently the EPA is reviewing a standard for radon in water.

Lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. This water system is responsible for high quality drinking water, but can not control the variety of materials used in your plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing cold water your tap for at least 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. Do not use hot water for drinking and cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Source Water Assessment Summary:
The NH Department of Environmental Services has prepared a Source Water Assessment Report for the Sources serving this communities water system, assessing the sources' vulnerability to contamination. The results of the assessment, prepared on June 10, 2005 are as follows:

Source 1	High	Medium	Low
Alton Central Fire Station Well G.P.W.	2	4	6
Source 2			
Levey Park Well G.P.W	2	4	6
Source 3			
Jones Field Well G.P.W.	2	3	7

The complete assessment report is available for review at Alton Water Works Office, 67 Frank C. Gilman Highway, Alton, NH. For more information call Superintendent Richard Quindley at (603) 875-4200 or visit NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water Source Water Assessment Program web site at www.des.nh.gov/dwgb.